

**REMARKS**

At the time of the Office Action dated June 30, 2004, claims 18-22 were pending.<sup>1</sup>

In this Amendment, claims 18 and 20 have been amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claim 18 has been amended to improve wording but its scope is not narrowed, although this amendment has been made in response to the Examiner's §112, second paragraph rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the issue raised by the Examiner (see paragraph 3 of the Office Action) has been obviated, and solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-22 under §112, second paragraph.<sup>2</sup> Claim 20 has been amended to correct a typographic oversight.

In addition, it is noted that the Information Disclosure Statements were filed on November 13, 2003 and July 20, 2004. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of those IDSs and provide copies of the PTO-1449 forms appropriately initialed indicating consideration of the cited prior art.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action misnumbered the pending claims in this application. Paragraphs 4) and 4a) in the Office Action Summary say that the claims 1-20 are pending, and of those claims, claims 18-22 are withdrawn from consideration. Correctly, claims 18-22 are pending and no claims are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to clarify the record of this application.

<sup>2</sup> The Office Action states that claims 15-22 are rejected (see paragraph 3). However, Applicants presume that the Examiner intended to reject claims 18-22.

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extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recognition under 37 C.F.R. 10.9(b)

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